

Message Text

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SUBJECT: BELGIAN Q AND A IN PARLIAMENT ON SACEUR'S STATEMENT

RE MARXIST PARTIES IN WESTERN GOVERNMENTS

1. AT INITIATIVE OF BELGIAN COMMUNIST DEPUTY VAN GEGY SUBJECT OF GENERAL HAIG'S REMARKS IN MUNICH WAS ADDRESSED BY GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN IN PARLIAMENT ON MARCH 11. VAN GEYT IN CHARACTERISTICALLY LONG RAMBLING REQUEST ASKED FOR BELGIAN GOVERNMENT TO PROTEST REMARKS.

2. REPLYING SPECIFICALLY ON BEHALF OF THE PRIME MINISTER, FLEMISH SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE REGIONAL ECONOMY DHOORE TOOK NOTE OF THE PUBLICITY THE REMARKS HAD PROVOKED IN THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS AND NOTED THAT HAIG HAD RAISED THE SUBJECT DIRECTLY WITH NATO SEC GEN LUNS, WHO HAD IN TURN INFORMED NATO GOVERNMENTS. DHOORE NOTED DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WHAT HAIG HAD ACTUALLY SAID AND WHAT HE WAS ALLEGED TO HAVE SAID, NOTABLY BY THE FRENCH COMMUNIST PAPER, L'HUMANITE. DHOORE SUMMARIZED HAIG'S ACTUAL REMARKS STRESSING THAT DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENTS MUST TAKE INTERNAL THREATS INTO ACCOUNT AS WELL AS EXTERNAL ONES AND THAT IN ADDRESSING THE PRESENT SOCIO-ECONOMIC CRISIS, GOVERNMENTS MUST NOT

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OVERLOOK THE COMMON DEFENSE ISSUE. DHOORE CONCLUDED "WE

CONSIDER THAT IT IS NOT IN THE ATTRIBUTES OF A COMMANDING
GENERAL TO ADDRESS PUBLICALLY PROBLEMS WHICH BY THEIR NATURE
ARE ESSENTIALLY POLITICAL AND NOT WITHIN THE COMPETENCE
OF THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES. WE HAVE MADE OUR POSITION
KNOWN. NOR DOES ONE COUNTRY HAVE THE RIGHT TO DICTATE ANY
POLITICAL LINE WHATSOEVER TO ANOTHER ALLIANCE COUNTRY.
IT IS UP TO THE ATLANTIC COUNCIL, AS THE HIGHEST BODY
OF THE ALLIANCE, TO GUARD THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TREATY
WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE ABSOLUTE INDEPENDENCE AND
SOVEREIGNTY OF EACH MEMBER STATE .."

3. BELGIAN PRESS PLAY OF ENTIRE AFFAIR HAS BEEN BY AND
LARGE LIMITED TO REPORTING STORY AND REPEATING FOREIGN REACTIONS.
SOCIALISTS DID GRUMBLE SOMEWHAT ABOUT INTERFERENCE IN DOMESTIC
POLITICS. FIRESTONE

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